

INTERACTION

RELATION AND ATTITUDES OF SYNTACTIC NORMS WITH SYNTACTICAL EVOLUTION

RELACIÓN DE INTERACCIÓN Y ACTITUDES DE LAS NORMAS SINTÁCTICAS CON EVOLUCIÓN SINTÁCTICA

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ABSTRACT

The relationship between syntactic norms and syntactic evolution is a crucial, though relatively unexplored, aspect of linguistic development, particularly in literary languages that have undergone significant historical transformations. While linguistic norms are traditionally conceptualized as prescriptive standards imposed on language use, contemporary research increasingly recognizes them as dynamic phenomena whose emergence and evolution manifest complex interactions between linguistic structure, communicative function, and social convention. However, the specific mechanisms by which syntactic norms reflect and regulate evolutionary processes have not yet been sufficiently theorized, especially in the context of Turkic languages. In this paper, we address this dimension by analyzing the dialectical interaction between syntactic norms and syntactic evolution in the Azerbaijani literary language from antiquity to the present. It was found that Azerbaijani syntactic norms have never remained static, but have continuously incorporated new rules and practices, demonstrating a bidirectional relationship where evolutionary changes first manifest in communicative practices before being codified into norms, which subsequently regulate future developmental directions. It is further shown that syntactic evolution in a given period can only be adequately explained by considering the syntactic norms that characterize it, thus establishing an intrinsic dialectical connection between normative regulation and linguistic change. These findings have important theoretical implications for understanding language as a social institution and provide generalizable principles applicable to the study of syntactic development in other literary languages.

Keywords: Syntactic norm, Syntactic evolution, Azerbaijani literary language, Linguistic standardization, Turkic languages, Diachronic syntax, Normative regulation.

RESUMEN

La relación entre las normas sintácticas y la evolución sintáctica es un aspecto crucial, aunque relativamente inexplorado, del desarrollo lingüístico, particularmente en las lenguas literarias que han experimentado transformaciones históricas significativas. Si bien las normas lingüísticas se conceptualizan tradicionalmente como estándares prescriptivos impuestos al uso del lenguaje, la investigación contemporánea las reconoce cada vez más como fenómenos dinámicos cuya emergencia y evolución manifiestan interacciones complejas entre la estructura lingüística, la función comunicativa y la convención social. Sin embargo, los mecanismos específicos mediante los cuales las normas sintácticas reflejan y regulan los procesos evolutivos aún no se han teorizado suficientemente, especialmente en el contexto de las lenguas túrquicas. En este artículo, se aborda esta dimensión analizando la interacción dialéctica entre las normas sintácticas y la evolución sintáctica en la lengua literaria azerbaiyana desde la antigüedad hasta la actualidad. Se observó que las normas sintácticas azerbaiyanas nunca han permanecido estáticas, sino que han incorporado continuamente nuevas reglas y prácticas, demostrando una relación bidireccional donde los cambios evolutivos se manifiestan primero en las prácticas comunicativas antes de codificarse en normas, las cuales posteriormente regulan las direcciones de desarrollo futuras. Se demuestra, además, que la evolución sintáctica en un período determinado solo puede explicarse adecuadamente considerando las normas sintácticas que lo caracterizan, estableciendo

así una conexión dialéctica intrínseca entre la regulación normativa y el cambio lingüístico. Estos hallazgos tienen importantes implicaciones teóricas para la comprensión del lenguaje como institución social y proporcionan principios generalizables aplicables al estudio del desarrollo sintáctico en otras lenguas literarias.

Palabras clave: Norma sintáctica, Evolución sintáctica, Lengua literaria azerbaiyana, Estandarización lingüística, Lenguas túrquicas, Sintaxis diacrónica, Regulación normativa.

INTRODUCTION

The relationship between linguistic norms and language evolution is one of the most complex and interesting areas of modern linguistics, ranging from theoretical to computational perspectives (Neureiter et al., 2022; Scharinger & Erfurth, 2022). These relationships are intricate at the syntactic level, where the tension between prescriptive standardization and natural language change manifests itself in ways that fundamentally shape the developmental trajectory of a literary language. Literary Azerbaijani offers a particularly interesting example of this dynamic interaction, as its historical development from antiquity to the present day reveals patterns of syntactic standardization that respond to evolutionary processes within the linguistic system, in addition to its regulatory processes. Therefore, understanding the interaction between syntactic norms and syntactic evolution is not simply an exercise in historical linguistics; rather, it allows us to address fundamental questions about the nature of language as a social institution, such as the mechanisms by which linguistic communities negotiate change and the role of conscious language planning in shaping communicative practices (Cuenca, 2022).

The concept of linguistic norms has been the subject of theoretical debate within the field of linguistics, reflecting divergent perspectives on the nature of language standardization and its relationship to actual language use (Kiesselbach, 2020). From a prescriptive perspective, norms represent codified rules that speakers and writers must follow to maintain linguistic correctness. This perspective, deeply rooted in the tradition of prescriptive grammar, views norms as externally imposed standards that serve to preserve linguistic purity and facilitate effective communication among diverse speech communities. However, contemporary linguistic theory has evolved toward a more nuanced position that recognizes norms as phenomena arising from complex interactions between linguistic structure, communicative function, and social convention (Creissels, 2024).

In the context of Azerbaijani linguistics, the norm has been conceptualized as a variant that stands out, is selected, and is used from the perspective of fulfilling its function in the most “appropriate” way among the linguistic variants coexisting in the literary language. This definition highlights several critical aspects of normativity:

It recognizes the existence of variation as a fundamental condition of language use.

It emphasizes selection as a social process through which certain variants achieve normative status.

It frames this selection in functional terms, suggesting that norms do not arise arbitrarily, but rather in response to communicative needs and effectiveness.

This aligns with what could be called a functionalist or use-based approach to linguistic norms, which views standardization as a process of optimizing linguistic resources for specific communicative purposes, rather than imposing arbitrary restrictions on the natural variation of language (Jalilbayli, 2022).

Syntactic norms, specifically, operate at the level of sentence structure and involve the standardization of word order patterns, clause combination strategies, agreement systems, and other structural features that govern how words and phrases are organized to create meaningful utterances. Unlike phonological or morphological norms, which typically involve relatively discrete and easily observable features, syntactic norms relate to the more abstract and cognitively complex domain of sentence organization. This complexity arises from the fact that syntax interacts with semantics, pragmatics, and discourse organization in ways that render purely formal prescriptions insufficient. Therefore, a syntactic norm must consider not only structural correctness but also contextual appropriateness, genre conventions, stylistic registers, and communicative intentions. Consequently, syntactic standardization involves a more gradual and negotiated process than standardization at other linguistic levels, since speakers must collectively establish conventional patterns to express increasingly complex propositional and interpersonal meanings.

The historical nature of syntactic norms represents another important aspect of their theoretical conceptualization. As noted in Azerbaijani linguistic research, the norm is a historical category, and the country has been subject to countless influences, some more significant than others. From this perspective, it is recognized that norms are not static but dynamic constructs that evolve in response to changing social conditions, communicative needs, and contact with other languages. Importantly, the historical

nature of norms generates an inherent tension within the concept itself: they must be stable enough to provide a solid foundation for communication and literacy, yet flexible enough to adapt to the inevitable changes that occur in living languages (Abdullayeva-Nebiyeva, 2025). This tension between stability and change, between prescription and description, constitutes the essence of the relationship between syntactic norms and syntactic evolution.

Therefore, analyzing the interaction between syntactic norms and/or their evolution requires diverse methodological approaches. In this research, we aim to contribute to this field by analyzing the interaction between syntactic norms and evolution in the Azerbaijani literary language. By examining the evolution of syntactic patterns, we seek to unravel the general principles governing the relationship between normative regulation and linguistic change, while also documenting the specific historical trajectory of syntactic development in the Azerbaijani language. The analysis was grounded in evidence from historical texts, prescriptive grammars, metalinguistic commentaries, and scholarly research on the history of the Azerbaijani language. Ultimately, the aim is to show how structure and syntactic rules have influenced each other over time, creating the complex linguistic system that characterizes contemporary Azerbaijani literary language.

DEVELOPMENT

It has been several years since scientists began exploring forms of interaction between syntactic norms of the Azerbaijani literary language and syntactic evolution in linguistics. Results that have been obtained from exploring this problem show that in determining the emergence and development of syntactic norms in a language, certain events that took place in society during different periods of history, as well as influences from related and non-related languages, including the influence of translated literature on the language, can be considered. Exploring all these points, we understand that the Azerbaijani literary language does not remain stable, and it contains rules and methods related to these changes.

In the “Explanatory Dictionary of Azerbaijani Language”, the word “norm” is explained as follows: *“The norm - putting things in order, rule, method; Legal norms. //The usual, enforced rule, an order which is accepted by everyone. Literary language norms. Moral standards”* (Abdullayeva, 2023). However, in the “Explanatory Linguistic Dictionary” of Terms, the norm is explained as follows: *“A variant that is highlighted, selected and used from the point of view of fulfilling its function in the most exemplary way from among the speech variants existing simultaneously in the literary language. Lexical norm. Morphological norm.*

Syntactic norm”. But in spite of different definitions, it is accepted that, norm is a historical category. Although it is characterized by its universality and, to a certain extent, stability, the norm itself is gradually changing. Since the language itself is a social phenomenon, it is constantly changing due to changes in the society that speaks this language. As a result of changes in the language norm, the following situation arises: over a period of time, more than one way—indeed, several ways—of expressing the same event, object, etc., appears. While old norms don't disappear, new norms are also created. For example, “Have you subscribed//were you subscribed to the newspaper?” (Adilov et al., 2020, pp. 402–403).

Such grammars do not address argumentative, unresolved problems. The textbooks, which are intended for secondary and higher schools, interpret the most general and necessary morphological and syntactic rules of grammar with common examples. Such kinds of normative grammars are sometimes called practical or passive grammars. These grammars are satisfied with providing minimal information about morphology and syntax to pupils and students. Many new spheres of linguistics that have been created in recent years are not covered in normative grammars (Adilov et al., 2020, p. 403).

Aghamusa Akhundov, talking about grammatical norms, wrote:

The grammatical structure is the slowest changing and the most ‘protective’ structure of a language. Although this is a system of units, it is not unknown to developing trends: Here, there is a process of constant improvement, and those who explore the grammar of our language are always obliged to take this into consideration too. (Akhundov, 2012, p. 299).

According to Aghamusa Akhundov, the development of the language's grammatical structure and its improvement are not accidental; as he stated, these are not voluntary processes but are based on rules—they constitute a system of laws that meet established requirements. The author believed that, as at all levels of language, one of the leading directions in grammatical structure, perhaps the foremost, is the preservation of language material. According to Aghamusa Akhundov, this was a common typological phenomenon and is characteristic of almost all languages. In different styles of our literary language, especially in literary and press styles, a number of morphological phenomena are noticed, and in the grammatical structure of our literary language, various linguistic events also appear. These grammatical events have to be assessed to determine which of them constitute the norm (Akhundov, 2012).

Aghamusa Akhundov addressed not only the process of syntactic normalization at the syntactic level, but he also addressed morphological deviations. This shows that the second tendency manifested in the development of our literary language, which occurs at the syntactic level, is connected to word order. According to the regulatory requirements of our literary language, the word order in a sentence should be as follows: subject, secondary members of the sentence, predicate. Adverbs of time and place can also appear before the subject. However, this syntactic tendency is more related to the emotionality of speech, and it is not correct to characterize this as a violation of the syntactic norm of our literary language (Akhundov, 2012, p. 303).

When Nizami Khudiyev spoke about the emergence of norms in language and speech and about the development process, he noted that although the foundations of the norm were created in the process of Azerbaijani literary formation (from ancient times to the XIII century), variability did not disappear at all during those days. The norms of literary language in the XIII-XIV centuries, first of all, attract attention with their democracy and massiveness; on the other hand, Universal Turkism is preserved. The existence of variants in the norms of the Azerbaijani language of the XIII-XIV centuries was caused by the complex ethnolinguistic processes that came forward during this period, along with the long-established linguistic traditions of various Turkic tribes and peoples arriving in Azerbaijan, which have long influenced the dialectal characteristics of the people living in this area—characteristics that are more intensely manifested in the literary language. Sometimes the fact that a local dialect coincides with the norms of the incoming literary language means that several indicators of the norm become functional at the same time (Khudiyev, 2018, p. 166).

According to Nizami Khudiyev, the syntax of the Azerbaijani literary language of the XII-XIV centuries attracts attention with its high level of development. Generally, there is an assumption that the level of development of the syntax of a literary language is widely determined by the intellectual progress of the people, and the syntactic development of spoken language is considered proportional to ethnic evolution through collective traditions. According to this opinion, the period of literary syntax is a manifestation of absolute intellectual energy. Phrases, simple and compound sentences, have normative forms at this stage. Nizami Khudiyev thought that syntax, in general, is strongly affected by style, which is connected with functionality and genre typology; of course, this does not mean the absence of normative constructions in the literary language of the XIII-XIV centuries, but rather that it is rich in

“universal” syntactic constructions. Syntactic flexibility at this stage finds its material foundations precisely in the wideness of the expressive possibilities of normative forms (Khudiyev, 2018, p. 179).

The norms of the Azerbaijani literary language of the XV-XVI centuries differ from those of the XIII-XV centuries, but this difference allows for the distinguishing of stages, not periods. Classical normativity is strengthened with the increasing influence of the classical style; at the same time, a new normative system of the Azerbaijani language was formed on the basis of the folklore style in the XVI century. Nizami Khudiyev shows the use of many postpositional attributive groups as a leading aspect of the Azerbaijani literary language of the XV-XVI centuries (Khudiyev, 2018, pp. 257–269).

The reorganization case manifests itself on a national basis in the grammatical norms of the Azerbaijani literary language in the XVII-XVIII centuries. The national norm system is completely determined in the expression of general grammatical categories. Syntactic norms are strengthened in the process of organizing the Azerbaijani literary language on a national basis; the dialectical connection between morphological norms and syntactic norms increases, and synthesis more consistently ensures the internal unity of the grammatical norm. The syntactic norm was fundamentally democratized, stylistic differentiation increased, and the new expressive capabilities of syntax—its capacities for reflection—were revealed in the XVII-XVIII centuries (Khudiyev, 2018, p. 354).

At last, the norms of the Azerbaijani literary language, neither at the beginning of the XX century nor in the XVII-XVIII centuries, appeared in invisible complexity, and sometimes even with instability. The variability and instability of that complexity, along with the convergence of absolutely stable “positions,” is the result of a tendency toward merging. This situation in the development of the language’s syntactic norms at the beginning of the XX century created the ground for its stabilization. Nizami Khudiyev was of the opinion that the popularization of the literary language in the 1920s and 1930s had the greatest impact on the syntactic norm. In this period, the syntax of the literary language is based on the syntax of the spoken language; its own brevity and natural emotionality become qualitative facts in the syntactic norm. Dialect syntax participates in the democratization of the syntactic norm, the influence of Arab-Persian literary language syntax disappears, and component functionality decreases at this time. Under the influence of European-Russian languages, some syntactic constructions attract attention, especially in cases where complex sentences become functionalized. The complex-constructive expression forms of

translation works do their work in organizing the syntactic norm (Khudiyev, 2018, pp. 577–578).

Tofiq Hajiyev and Kamil Veliyev's opinions on language norms also pique interest. According to these linguists, literary language is organically connected with people's intellect, and it serves and reflects them. The characteristic norm reflects the level of literary language along with the cultural-intellectual essence of society. That is why the development of literary language should be understood as the evolution of the norm. Changing, developing, and renewal of the norm is conditioned by the additions of definite quantities and differences. These quantitative limits are considered transition nodes in the history of literary language. When the qualitative limits become quantitative accumulations, periods arise. According to the authors, the norm consists of two components in its composition: a structural-formal component and a functional-content component. The first side covers aspects of structural indicators of language—phonetic and lexico-grammatical. And the second side means: style variety, flexibility and maturity in stylistic differentiation, as well as the wideness of communicative literary language and mental and intellectual perfection (Hajiyev & Valiev, 1983, pp. 47–48).

Co-authored with Tofiq Hajiyev and Kamil Veliyev, the book named "History of the Azerbaijani Language" divides the history of the Azerbaijani literary language into two important periods: the period of formation and the period of stabilization. The period of formation approximately covers the period from the IX-X centuries to the beginning of the XVII century. It is shown that there are two styles during the formation period: the classic book style and the spoken-folklore style. The stabilization period begins in the middle of the XVII century. Starting from that period, the stabilization and definition of phonetic, grammatical, and lexical aspects of the Azerbaijani literary language occur. During this time, the second component of the norm changes: the spoken folk style rises to the leading level. The stabilization period is divided into four stages: 1) Literary language of the XVII-XVIII centuries – the main developing trend of this period is the democratization of norms. Foreign lexico-grammatical facts are forced out of the literary language, their sphere becomes narrower, and the spoken-folklore style becomes the leading style; 2) Literary language of the XIX century - Arabic and Persian languages stop serving as sources of acquisition; words of Russian and European origin gradually increase in the vocabulary of the literary language; the first examples of scientific and philosophical language are created as the basis of the scientific style; 3) Literary language of the end of the XIX and beginning of the XX centuries is the period

of the national literary language. At this stage, beginning in the 1870s, a journalistic style appears, a national literary language is being formed, and all styles of language begin their activity; 4) The modern literary language of Azerbaijan was fully formed after the 1930s; orthographical and orthoepic norms are stabilized, the attitude towards adopted words is determined, and terminology begins to stabilize (Hajiyev & Valiev, 1983, pp. 50–53).

The scientific style also has certain contributions to the formation of the national literary language. Specifically, the developing trends and formation characteristics of the scientific style of the national literary language can be observed in scientific works written by individual scientists at the beginning of the XX century. Afina Alizadeh, exploring scientific works on geography, mathematics, language, literature, and history, as well as dictionaries, textbooks, and educational materials written in Azerbaijani, came to the conclusion that scientific literature has a great role in the formation of morphological norms in the development and formation of the Azerbaijani literary language. Examples of such scientific sources, educational materials, and dictionaries include: H. Zardabi's "Body Health Keeping" (1914), "Land, Water and Air" (1912); Y. Hajibeyov's "Problems of Defining" (1907), "Turkish-Russian and Russian-Turkish" (1907); N. Narimanov's "Cholera - Plague" (1909), "Trachoma - Eye Pain" (1924); G. Mirzazade's "Geography of the Caucasus" (1909), "General Geography" (1912), "Folklore Interpretation Dictionary" (1921), "Morphological Book" (1918); R. Efendiev's "Poor Baby" (1901, 1907); and others (Alizade, 1998, pp. 3–4).

The main aim of enumerating scientific works that began at the beginning of the XX century is to provide an understanding of the interconnection of scientific branches during that period. These scientific sources make it possible to analyze linguistic facts observed in the scientific literature at the beginning of the XX century. The enumerated sources that were obtained at the beginning of the last century are also important from the point of view of developing observations on the formation of lexical and syntactic norms.

Kamil Aliyev also touched upon problems connected with stylistic norms in the Azerbaijani literary language in his research. The researcher shows that just as there are phonetic, lexical, morphological, and syntactic norms in the language, there are stylistic norms as well. Stylistic norms also form, like other norms of language, and improve, assuming new varieties. Stylistic norms, according to their substance, represent stylistic realities. This norm exists in the thought-expressing process and is based on the choice of the optimal option, which is specific to the

corresponding functional style. Sometimes stylistic norms are identified with ethical and behavioral norms. If phonetic, lexical, morphological, and syntactic norms serve the correct use of literary language, stylistic norms make it possible to construct correct and high-quality speech. Distortion of lexical and grammatical norms in the language negatively affects the stylistic norms. Stylistic norms should be appreciated as a historical category. They form as a whole system in the literary language. According to the author's thoughts, the following components of the stylistic norm have typical features: clarity, conciseness, fluidity, connectivity, precision, naturalness, purity, and brightness (Aliev, 1989, pp. 37–38).

Stylistic norms are widely reflected in the language at the syntactic level and, being parallel with syntactic norms, serve the optimal expression of thoughts in sentence constructions. Akif Miriyev paid special attention to the syntactic aspects of the periodic style when discussing grammatical rules in the 1970s in the Azerbaijani press language. He notes that the tendency to use elements of spoken language is more noticeable in the press language of syntactic Azerbaijani literary language. Press style, compared with other styles, is more exposed to extralinguistic influences. The speech culture of syntactic printed language and its exploration from the aspect of literary variability are very important from this point of view. As a result of observations, the author comes to the conclusion that in the formation of many syntactic features of the Azerbaijani literary language, translations from Russian play an important role in obtaining norm status. The influence of Russian syntax on self-defining phrases in translation texts manifests itself in cases of word order disorder in a sentence (Miriyev, 1980, pp. 25–29).

Nizami Jafarov, who explored the Azerbaijani literary language in the XVIII century, comes to the conclusion that the Azerbaijani national literary language originated from the ancient Azerbaijani language, which was developed before it (in old Azeri language, from the XI–XII centuries to the XVI century, used as a means of communication) in a more original form. Thus, he shows the new connection with other Turkic languages to which it is closely connected. According to the author, the democratization and nationalization of literary language in the development process had passed through the following functional and typological stages:

I Stage – throughout the XVI century;

II Stage - from the end of the XVI to the middle of the XVII century;

III Stage - from the end of the XVII century to the middle of the XIX century.

Thus, the development of the literary language in the XVIII century can be characterized by the combination of two important qualities: based on the dialectics of language, there is a noticeable convergence of classical and folk styles; in this situation, only democratic, national elements are stabilized (Jafarov, 1991, p. 14).

Sanubar Abdullayeva also touched upon the content of syntax and syntactic norms connected with the language of Azerbaijani fairy tales and epics. Based on observations of the syntactic structure of the language of Azerbaijani epics and fairy tales, the author comes to the conclusion that connecting constructions, inverted sentences, the order of sentence members, parallel components, literary attribution, literary salutation, and other syntactic figures organize the dominant features of syntax. It is possible to encounter different types of simple and compound sentences in Azerbaijani fairy tales and epics. Nominative sentences extend in “no” in fairy tales and epics.

Spoken language constructions are dominated superlatively in folklore syntax. Although in recent periods, widespread connection structures have been shown as a new trend in our linguistic literature and in the press, this phenomenon is widespread in fairy tales and epics (Abdullayeva, 2006, p. 27).

It should be noted that syntactic patterns and norms established in the Azerbaijani literary language of the Oghuz group are also manifested in one way or another in Turkic languages. According to the thoughts of Sevindik Valiyeva, when following the process of formation and development of simple sentences in Oghuz group Turkic languages, two directions are more noticeable. These directions are characterized primarily by structural-semantic research of a simple sentence. In structural and semantic terms, morphological and semantic levels of research in form and content, which are very different from each other, are formed on the basis of different grammatical categories. The author thinks that the simple sentence was in a dominant position in the proto-Turkic period and played a leading role in the syntactic system. Based on facts from the language of “Kitabi-Dada Gorgud,” research on simple sentence models shows that in the first period of its formation, our literary language had both stability and breadth of its functionality and manifests itself in its richness. This epic, which was written in the Middle Ages, has retained a number of epic language features, including simple sentence syntax constructions. Comparative exploration of Oghuz group Turkic languages shows that a simple sentence is more prevalent than a compound sentence in the compared languages. The more interesting aspect is that in Turkic languages, a simple sentence contains all the possible branching potentials of the sentence, which

does not contradict the organization of the main sentence and tries to create structured substitute sentences according to the rules (Valiyev, 2013, pp. 45–46).

Kizilgul Abdullayeva, discussing the syntactic norm of the Azerbaijani literary language in the XVII century, specifically explores the historical development of phrases and the syntactic problems of simple and compound sentences. The researcher shows that the nationalization that occurred in Azerbaijani society in the XVII century was connected with the syntactic structure of the language and also had an impact on the syntactic norm of the literary language. This influence can be characterized as nationalization. During this period, simplification of phrases occurs, and adjectives are adapted to the grammatical laws of the Azerbaijani language. For example: *duayi-kheir/ blessing*; *busati-toi/wedding-time*; *wedding-evening*; *abi-hayat/living water*, etc.

Generally, in the XVII century, at the level of word combination, the national grammatical pattern is preferable to the foreign pattern. The researcher shows that all types according to purpose and intonation are found in the syntactic system of the Azerbaijani literary language of the XVII century. Affirmative sentences have been preferred over other types of sentences. The Azerbaijani literary language of the XVII century contained in its syntactic structure a percentage of interrogative sentences, including one of the classic genres of poetry - these are interrogative sentences without an answer, which are functional in the ghazal language. According to the author's thoughts, it is possible to encounter in the sources of the XVII century both affirmative sentences (*My heart became blood*, for early dimple - *Rakhmati*) and negative sentences (*Don't keep it a secret, keep warning us* - *Fadai*) (Abdullayeva, 2023, p. 43).

According to the research of Kizilgul Abdullayeva, in the XVII century, it is possible to encounter sentences used both without conjunctions and with them in the Azerbaijani literary language: without conjunctions (*The shield fell, the helmet divided, the spark spread* - *Messihi*); and with conjunctions (*This is a bud belonging to the Shah, this is a pearl given to me by the Almighty* - *Fadai*). Additionally, various types of subordinate clauses are present: subject clauses (*Impossible to understand the hint of eyebrows* - *Mejzub*); predicate clauses (*Beloved kills, be a victim to the beloved* - *Zafar*); object clauses (*Understood what patience to the beloved is* - *Masihi*); attributive clauses (*Madness increases for a young man who is devastated* - *Amani*); adverbial clauses (*How would you be if I sighed with grief, the deer would burn with grief* - *Sari Ashug*); circumstantial clauses (*If there is no meeting and word with a girl, no wooing, no order* - *Fadai*); contrasting clauses

(*If there is no respect, I get over the longing* - *Masihi*) (Abdullayeva, 2023, p. 44).

It should also be noted that, according to the classification of other kinds of sentences, objective subordinate clause sentences are very active and widespread. As a result, Kizilgul Abdullayeva believes that the increase of the minimum norm of nationalization to the maximum from the end of the XVI to the beginning of the XVII century was valued as the leading development of this period. This is an expression of the bridge between the centuries before and after the XVII century, which plays a great role in the coordinating function combining tradition and innovation. Thanks to this expressive function, it stabilized towards the end of the XVII century the popularized, nationalized Azerbaijani language and carried it into the XVIII century (Abdullayeva, 2023, pp. 50–51). Thus, all types of subordinating complex sentences had been identified in the syntactic structure of the literary language of the XVII century.

CONCLUSIONS

This research analyzed the complex interaction between syntactic norms and syntactic evolution in Azerbaijani literary language, finding that this relationship constitutes a fundamental dialectical process for understanding the historical development of any literary language. As defined in explanatory dictionaries of linguistics, norms represent obligatory rules accepted by all speakers that govern the development and use of language. However, far from being static constructs, syntactic norms act as dynamic historical categories that evolve in response to factors such as changing communicative needs, social transformations, and interlinguistic contact. Diachronic analysis of Azerbaijani literary language reveals that syntactic norms have never remained completely stable, but have continuously incorporated new rules and practices. The dialectical development of the literary language, with its changes in form and content, is first reflected in actual communicative practices and subsequently codified in the norm. In turn, the established norm begins to act as a regulatory force, guiding future trends in the language's development.

The historical trajectory of the Azerbaijani language reveals several critical moments in its syntactic evolution. The 13th and 14th centuries exhibited norms characterized by a democratic structure and a wealth of universal constructions; the 15th and 16th centuries witnessed the strengthening of classical norms and the development of postpositional attributive groups; the 17th and 18th centuries marked a reorganization on national grounds with a fundamental democratization of syntactic norms, greater stylistic differentiation, and the emergence of new

expressive capabilities; finally, the 20th century, particularly after 1930, consolidated the modern literary language with stabilized orthographic and syntactic norms, where European and Russian influences introduced new constructions, especially in complex sentences. An interesting and significant finding is that variation is not a defect, but rather a fundamental condition that enables the process of social selection, through which certain variants acquire normative status based on functional criteria—the capacity to fulfill specific communicative purposes—instead of arbitrary impositions.

The characteristics of syntactic evolution in a given period can only be adequately explained by considering the syntactic norms that characterize it. There is a bidirectional relationship: the norms codify successful evolutionary patterns from the past, while simultaneously channeling and limiting the possible directions of future change. This dialectical relationship between conservation and innovation explains both the observable historical continuity in Azerbaijani syntactic structures and their capacity to adapt to new communicative realities. We believe that understanding this interaction has considerable scientific importance that transcends the specific case of Azerbaijani, addressing fundamental questions about language as a social institution: the mechanisms by which linguistic communities negotiate change, the role of conscious language planning in shaping communicative practices, and the ongoing tension between prescriptive regulation and natural variation. In general, the Azerbaijani literary language exemplifies how syntactic norms and syntactic evolution are not opposing forces, but rather complementary aspects of a single historical process, where norms provide the stability necessary for effective communication, while evolution ensures the language's adaptability to the changing needs of its speakers.

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